

**Pawtuxet River Authority  
And Watershed Council  
Historic Harris Mill  
618 Main Street  
Coventry, RI 02816  
401-615-7039  
[www.pawtuxet.org](http://www.pawtuxet.org)**

**Monthly Board Meeting  
May 7, 2007**

**Board Members Present: Jim McCaughey, Robert Nero, Brian Manning, Jack Lancellotta, Jack Donovan, Arthur Langlais, Rita Holahan**

**Board Members Absent: Scott Goodinson, Will Lema**

**Associate Board Members Present:**

**Associate Board Members Absent: Richard Dorr, Vincent DiGiulio, Robert Zulegar, Dan Meunier**

**Guests: Brian Legault – 571 Providence, Street Warwick, RI 02886 (828-2917)**

**1. Call to Order:**

**Chairman Nero noting that a quorum was present called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.**

## **2. Brian Legault – Eagle Scout Project**

**Brian Legault stated that for his Eagle Scout Project he would like to build a handicap accessible dock of Route 116 at Hope Landing on the Pawtuxet. Brain stated that he got the idea from a Providence Journal article on a handicap access dock located on Stump Pond in Smithfield. Bob suggested that Brian might consider the river access at Veterans Square. Brian supplied Bob with a letter requesting support to build the access ramp**

## **3. Minutes from Last Meeting**

**Minutes read and accepted**

## **4. Projects**

**Phenix Mill – Bob stated the mill and adjoining dam is owned by Mr. Rocco Bordelli which burned down two years ago. Remaining site is being converted into condominiums. Mr. Bordelli would like to fill in an existing trench but permit issues are preventing him from doing so. He is now offering the dam and trench to the PRA. Presently a significant portion of the trench has collapsed do to heavy rains. Bob**

presented the board with a schematic of the property and asked for some discussion by Board. Bob suggested that we turn this into park – Brian sate the he had written a letter some time ago (after the burning of the mill) to the local paper suggesting that the park be placed here. Bob stated the dam is in good condition but the trench requires repair – perhaps be turned into a fish passage. Jack asked if this would pose zoning problems – Bob stated because it will be park there should be no zoning issues. Bob stated that it is a low hazard dam – Arthur suggested that perhaps we should remove the dam. Arthur stated that RIDEM should be encouraged to take over the dam and the PRA should take the property. Arthur stated that he has concerns over being responsible for the management and liability of a dam. Bob said that he is investigating obtaining federal funds to help with placing a fish passage here. Bob sated that the current owner was quoted \$20,000 form RIDEM for a permit to fill in the trench. Site may need an environmental assessment. Arthur suggested again that RIDEM be encouraged to take on some financial responsibility/liability for the dam. Rita asked if had been inspected recently. Jack Donovan sated that a printing company that was once located their used mineral spirits that had a possibility of being released at the site. Bob stated that EPA has conducted a limited clean-up at the site. Jack Lancellota suggested having a meeting with Mr. Bordelli. Rita suggested that more research be conducted before further discussion takes place - major issues to be further investigated include:

- **Cost of liability insurance (feasibility of taking over dam along with payments from the former owner and/or city/town to cover increased liability insurance)**
- **Condition of the dam – Bob Nero will read RDIEM Dam file on this dam.**
- **Environmental site assessment of property (new regulations as they apply to this property) cost \$10,000 - \$30,000**
- **Environmental liability associated with the property**
- **Funding for park – Bob will check with town**
- **Size of property being offered – check schematic**
- **Town's stance on the property and PRA's involvement**

**Brian made a motion that we further explore Mr. Bordelli's offer and conduct a detailed investigation into at least issues the above. Jack Lancelotta seconded – all in favor.**

**Hope Mill – Bob stated a financial group has purchased the mill and would like to gift a portion of the property to the PRA. A proposed sewer line would pass through a portion of adjoining property currently owned by the PRA and a portion of property currently owned by the Hope Mill Association. Currently a group leaching field services about 40 homes in the area. A new sewer line will service the mill and these homes. Also an elementary school, fire department and police department could benefit. The Town of West Warwick's downstream sewer may need upgrades. The mill owners have added a piece of property located in Coventry to the package of property**

**being offered to the PRA.**

**Veterans Square – The PRA is currently waiting for money from USDOT to complete project. Bob stated that existing grant funds should become available soon.**

## **5. New Business**

**PRA Policies - Discussion took place regarding the use of the PRA name on various projects. Bob stated that a policy will be written to address this issue. Jack stated that PRA members need to fill out State “Conflict of Interest Forms” – from Ethics Commission.**

**Work Load Distribution - Rita suggested that in order to help distribute the PRA work load – a checklist could be made on work items that need to be done and PRA property that needs to be maintained and could be distributed to the various members of the applicable cities/towns. Bob and Arthur stated that the PRA should have “stewards” from each city/town that can keep an eye on PRA property in their city/town.**

## **6. Adjournment:**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM**